

THE HOOKWORM CAMPAIGN IN ALAMANCE COUNTY.

GETTING THE APPROPRIATION.

In June, 1913, while conducting the Hookworm Campaign in Caswell County, I was asked by the Raleigh Department to visit Alamance County on July 7 and go before the board of commissioners and secure an appropriation preliminary to conducting a campaign in that county. The task was undertaken with many misgivings, for I had often heard that to get an appropriation from Alamance was a hopeless undertaking, and had been shunned by other directors. I determined, however, to make an effort and to leave no stone unturned in making my visit successful.

I began immediately by writing letters to the county commissioners, telling them of my coming. I then wrote each of the thirty-five physicians of the county, asking his aid. Articles were sent to the five newspapers of the county. To follow up this preliminary work, I decided to spend one or two days in Alamance before the first Monday, and reached Graham on Friday, July 4.

My first interview was with the county attorney, and from him I learned the characteristics of the members of the board of county commissioners. There were five commissioners: two were progressive, one decidedly unprogressive, and two neutral. On Saturday morning I visited Dr. Long, the county physician. He was very kind, and assured me of his assistance. Together we went to Saxapahaw, a distance of 12 miles, to interview the chairman of the commissioners. Mr. Williamson was very much impressed with the results of our work in other counties, and especially among the cotton mills, he himself being in the mill business. In the afternoon I drove out to see one of the "neutral" commissioners, and found him negative. He agreed to all I had to say as to the value of the campaign, but said the county was already in debt, and needed to buy some mules.

Between Saturday and Monday I visited as many physicians as possible, and was greatly surprised to find that they spoke indifferently about public health work and were not very much impressed with the importance of a hookworm campaign. One of the leading physicians of Graham said he had never treated any cases of hookworm disease—that he had always been too busy with his practice to bother with unimportant theories.

On the first Monday I found the commissioners very busy with questions such as deciding the changing of roads, school districts, the building of bridges, and other local matters. I was promised one-half hour at 4 p. m. At noon I was able to interview two other commissioners. Mr. Cates assured me that he was heartily in favor of our work and would vote for it, while Mr. Fogleman wouldn't commit himself either way.

Just after dinner I visited the board of education, then in session, and explained to them the details of our campaign. They were very much interested, and passed a resolution asking the commissioners to vote the appropriation, and also ordered Mr. Robertson, the superintendent of schools, to go before the commissioners with me. The chairman, Mr. Scott, also assured